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# News Release

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## Lockage schedule changed temporarily at Lower Granite Dam

**Pomeroy, Wash.** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has announced that it is temporarily decreasing the number of daily lockages for recreational vessels at nearby Lower Granite Dam, according to an operations manager for the Walla Walla District's navigation locks.

"The situation here at this dam is that a hydraulic cylinder pump on the downstream miter gate for the navigation lock is showing signs of stress that will eventually cause it to fail completely, which would take the lock totally out of service. The pump that is involved has been in service for something like 25 years, but is now wearing out quickly," said Carl Knaak, maintenance operations manager. "We're trying to keep the pump working as long as we can. The navigation lock remains in service as much as possible without forcing closure and suspension of waterborne traffic altogether. We've gotten a \$12,000 (twelve thousand dollar) contract in place to deliver and install a new one next week."

After careful inspection and coordination, operations and engineering officials decided that scaling back recreational craft lockages to twice daily until further notice was necessary to help keep the gate functioning until the replacement pump is installed. Recreational vessels will be able to lock through heading upstream at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., and downstream at 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. All other scheduled recreational lockages at Lower Granite are temporarily suspended.

The lock remains in service to commercial traffic on an as-needed basis, but if the pump's condition worsens it may be necessary to close the lock to all traffic until repairs are made. Every effort is being made to replace the pump as quickly as possible and return the lock to normal service, according to Knaak. It will be closed to all upstream and downstream commercial and recreational vessels for an

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estimated eight hours so the replacement pump can be installed, possibly as early as Monday (June 23). The lock will resume normal service for all river traffic when the pump has been replaced, including recreational upstream lockages at noon, 6 and 9 p.m, and downstream at 12:30, 6:30 and 9:30 p.m.

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